



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Office of Economic  
Impact and Diversity

# 2023 DOE MBE **CONNECT** SUMMIT

THE ANNUAL MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE INDUSTRY DAY





U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
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# 2023 DOE MBE Connect Summit

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# Introduction

February 23, 2023

Welcome to the 2023 DOE MBE Connect Summit!

We are excited to welcome you here for a momentous day of learning, connection, and community. At this convening, we will offer incredible opportunities for Minority Business Enterprises (MBE), Department of Energy Program Offices, the National Labs, higher education institutions, financial institutions, and non-profit organizations working to realize a just clean energy future and building lasting and generative connections. Together we will learn how to engage in business with the Department of Energy and engage with leaders in government and industry to learn more about how the energy industry is responding to historic federal investments in clean energy and communities.

Over the past year, the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity (ED) is leading the critical shift to tackling the climate crisis through equity-centered solutions that ensure underserved and overburdened communities - particularly those on the frontlines of climate change - have the resources they need to thrive. We are empowered in this effort by historic Federal investments and policy advancements like Executive Order 14008, *Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad*, which established the Justice40 Initiative. The Justice40 initiative directs 40% of the overall benefits of certain Federal investments - including investments in climate change; clean energy and energy efficiency; clean transit; affordable and sustainable housing; training and workforce development; the remediation and reduction of legacy pollution; and the development of clean water infrastructure - to flow to disadvantaged communities (DACs). Based on significant stakeholder engagement efforts, priorities identified by the White House Environmental Justice Council, and additional research, ED has identified eight policy priorities to guide DOE's implementation of Justice40.

President Biden's newest Executive Order, the Executive Order on Further Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government, reaffirms the administration's commitment to the equitable development for disadvantaged communities and strengthens the Department of Energy's ability to meet its Justice40 goals. Legislation like the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act, representing hundreds of billions of dollars investment in the modernization of the American energy system, have also imbued the Federal government with potent tools to meet the challenge and opportunity of this moment. From the Environmental Protection Agency's Green House Gas Reduction Fund to tax incentive programs like the Low-Income Communities Bonus Credit Program (48(e)), and the Qualifying Advanced Energy Project Credit (48C), with which DOE is partnering with Treasury and IRS to implement, we are poised to make significant progress.

We welcome you to the U.S. Department of Energy and are excited to spend this day creating the foundation of collaboration upon which we are building an energy ecosystem, economy, and future made in the image of equity and justice.

In Solidarity,

The Minority Business and Workforce Team  
Office of Economic and Diversity  
U.S. Department of Energy

## **Program and Run of Show**

### **Check In, Breakfast, and Networking**

8:00am - 10:00am, Lobby and Cafeteria

### **Opening Remarks**

10:00am - 10:30am, Cafeteria

#### **Welcoming Remarks and Introduction to the Secretary of Energy**

Shalaya Morissette

*Chief, Minority Business and Workforce Division, Office of Economic Impact and Diversity  
U.S. Department of Energy*

#### **Remarks from the Secretary of Energy**

The Honorable Jennifer M. Granholm

*U.S. Secretary of Energy*

#### **Remarks and Introduction to Director Shalanda Baker**

The Honorable Asmeret Asefaw Berhe, Ph.D.

*Director, Office of Science*

*U.S. Department of Energy*

#### **Remarks from the Director**

The Honorable Shalanda H. Baker

*Director, Office of Economic Impact and Diversity*

*U.S. Department of Energy*

#### **Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding**

The Honorable Shalanda H. Baker

*Director, Office of Economic Impact and Diversity*

*U.S. Department of Energy*

The Honorable Donald R. Cravins Jr.

*Under Secretary of Commerce for Minority Business Development*

*U.S. Department of Commerce*

#### **Partnership Agreement Announcement**

Shalaya Morissette

*Chief, Minority Business and Workforce Division, Office of Economic Impact and Diversity  
U.S. Department of Energy*

## **Keynote Address**

10:30am-10:45am, Cafeteria

### **Introduction to Keynote Speaker**

Simon Bunyan

*Energy Justice Management and Program Analyst, Minority Business and Workforce Division  
Office of Economic Impact and Diversity  
U.S. Department of Energy*

### **Keynote Address**

The Honorable Jahi Wise

*Senior Advisor to the Administrator  
Acting Director, Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

## **Bio Break**

10:45am-11:00am

## **Panel Discussion**

11:00am to 11:35am, Cafeteria

### **Introduction of Panel Members**

Charles T. Wallace-Thomas IV

*ORISE Energy and Economic Justice Policy Fellow, Office of Economic Impact and Diversity  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Moderator*

### **Panel Discussion: New Opportunities for Equity in the Energy Economy**

The Honorable Henry McKoy, PhD

*Director, Office of State and Community Programs  
U.S. Department of Energy*

The Honorable Daniel Blackman

*Regional Administrator for the Southeast Region (Region 4)  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

Nenha Young

*Director of Policy and Network, Coalition for Green Capital*

Eric Coffie

*CEO of Govcon Giants and AlechemyGov*

## **Breakout Presentations**

11:35am-12:35pm, Multiple Rooms

### **Announcement of Next Steps and Breakout Group Instructions**

Shalaya Morissette

*Chief, Minority Business and Workforce Division, Office of Economic Impact and Diversity  
U.S. Department of Energy*

### **Track 1: Small Businesses**

Cafeteria

#### **Presenters**

Tamara Miles

*Deputy Director, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization  
U.S. Department of Energy*

Eileen Chant

*Outreach Manager, Office of SBIR/STTR Programs  
U.S. Department of Energy*

Kevin Thunell

*Procurement Director, Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy  
U.S. Department of Energy*

### **Track 2: Medium to Large MBEs**

Auditorium

#### **Presenters**

Angela Washington

*Senior Business Development Program Manager, Minority Business Development Agency  
U.S. Department of Commerce*

Monisha Shah

*Equity Lead, Joint Office on Energy and Transportation  
National Renewable Energy Laboratory and U.S. Department of Transportation*

Courtney Haynes

*Engagement Specialist, Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations  
U.S. Department of Energy*

Katelyn Walker-Mooney

*Director, Good Jobs Initiative and Policy Advisor to the Secretary  
U.S. Department of Labor*

### **Track 3: Non-Profits and Higher Education Institutions**

2E-001

#### **Presenters**

Ashley Brooks

*Senior Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Project Manager, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy  
U.S. Department of Energy*

Ping Gee, PhD

*Director, Office of Workforce Development for Teachers and Scientists, Office of Science  
U.S. Department of Energy*

Brian Benscoter, PhD

*Program Manager, Environmental System Science Program, Office of Science  
U.S. Department of Energy*

### **Track 4: Financial Institutions**

GH-019

#### **Presenters**

Bruce Belliveau

*Senior Consultant, Outreach and Business Development Division, Loan Programs Office  
U.S. Department of Energy*

Nenha Young

*Director of Policy and Network, Coalition for Green Capital*

#### **Lunch**

12:35pm-2:00pm, Cafeteria

#### **Procurement Presentation**

Nacole Morton

*Chief, Acquisition and Project Management Division, Office of Economic Impact and Diversity  
U.S. Department of Energy*

#### **Funding Opportunity Announcement Presentation**

Kerene Tayloe

*Management and Program Analyst, Office of Economic Impact and Diversity  
U.S. Department of Energy*

## **Networking Table Sessions**

2:00pm-4:45pm, Cafeteria

*\*During this time, MBEs, Non-Profits, and Higher Education Institutions will have the opportunity to meet one-on-one with DOE Program Offices, National Labs, Federal Family Members, and Financial Institutions. Each networking meeting will last for 10 minutes after which participants will have 2 minutes to move to their next meeting. A facilitator will announce the beginning and end of each round of networking from the podium.*

## **Closing Remarks and Departure**

4:45pm-5:00pm, Cafeteria

### **Closing Announcement and Instructions**

Shalaya Morissette

*Chief, Minority Business and Workforce Division, Office of Economic Impact and Diversity*

*U.S. Department of Energy*



## **Speaker Biographies**

### **Opening Remarks**



**Shalaya Morissette**

*Chief, Minority Business and Workforce Division, Office of Economic Impact and Diversity  
U.S. Department of Energy*

Shalaya Morissette (she/her) is Chief of the Minority Business and Workforce Division at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), located within the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity. She is a highly sought-after collaborator and co-conspirator in the clean technology space. Most recently she hails from the utility sector in safety and compliance. In 2022 she took on an additional role at Dearborn STEM Academy in Boston, Massachusetts as a teacher to 11th and 12th graders - delivering a curriculum for engineering with energy in mind. Previously she held various roles in higher education, including enrollment services project manager and in global transportation as the Director of Affiliate Relations.

She is the former president of the Greater Boston chapter of the American Association of Blacks in Energy. Serving as the first African American board member of the New England Women in Energy and Environment, she has been devoted to elevating and engaging women and people of color in the energy space. As a Georgia Gwinnett College Alumni Association board member and a committee member for Browning the Green Space, she has been engaged in the nonprofit and higher education space as a strong advocate for elevating minorities in the energy transition. Morissette's passion for bringing young people into the clean energy industry has also been supported with her work with Girls Inc and WriteBoston. Shalaya received her Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Georgia Gwinnett College and her Master of Education degree from Cambridge College.



**The Honorable Jennifer Granholm**

*Secretary of Energy, U.S. Department of Energy*

Jennifer M. Granholm was sworn in as the 16th Secretary of Energy on February 25, 2021. Secretary Granholm is leading DOE's work to advance the cutting-edge clean energy technologies that will help America achieve President Biden's goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 while creating millions of good-paying union clean energy jobs and building an equitable economy. Secretary Granholm is also overseeing DOE's core missions of promoting American leadership in scientific discovery, maintaining the nuclear deterrent, and reducing nuclear danger, and remediating the environmental harms caused by legacy defense programs.

Prior to her nomination as Secretary of Energy, Jennifer Granholm was elected Governor of Michigan, serving two terms from 2003 to 2011. As Governor, Jennifer Granholm faced economic downturns caused by the Great Recession and meltdown in the automotive and manufacturing sectors. She successfully led efforts to diversify the state's economy, strengthen its auto industry, preserve the manufacturing sector, and add emerging sectors — such as clean energy — to Michigan's economic portfolio. Today, one-third of all North American electric vehicle battery production takes place in Michigan, the state is one of the top five states for clean energy patents, and 126,000 Michiganders were employed in the clean energy sector prior to COVID-19.

Secretary Granholm was also elected Attorney General of Michigan and served as the state's top law enforcement officer from 1998 to 2002.

After two terms as governor, Jennifer Granholm joined the faculty of the University of California, Berkeley as a Distinguished Professor of Practice in the Goldman School of Public Policy, focusing on the intersection of law, clean energy, manufacturing, policy, and industry. She also served as an advisor to the Clean Energy Program of the Pew Charitable Trusts.

Jennifer Granholm began her career in public service as a judicial clerk for Michigan's 6th Circuit Court of Appeals. She became a federal prosecutor in Detroit in 1990, and in 1994, she was appointed Wayne County Corporation Counsel.

Secretary Granholm, an immigrant from Canada, is an honors graduate of both the University of California, Berkeley and Harvard Law School. She and her husband, Daniel G. Mulhern, have three children.



**The Honorable Asmeret Asefaw Berhe, Ph.D.**

*Director, Office of Science*

*U.S. Department of Energy*

Dr. Asmeret Asefaw Berhe is Director of the Office of Science at the U.S. Department of Energy. She is on leave from the University of California, Merced where she is a Professor of Soil Biogeochemistry, holds the Ted and Jan Falasco Chair in Earth Sciences and Geology, and serves as the Interim Associate Dean for Graduate Education. Berhe's internationally recognized research lies at the intersection of soil science, global change science, and political ecology, with an emphasis on how the soil system regulates the earth's climate and the dynamic two-way relationship between the natural environment and human societies. Berhe's expertise on feedbacks in the earth system brings a unique perspective for integrating across the physical and natural sciences.

Berhe's scientific leadership has been recognized by multiple national awards. She is a Fellow of both the American Geophysical Union (AGU) and the Geological Society of America (GSA) and has received numerous awards and honors including the Joanne Simpson Medal from AGU (2020), Bromery Award from GSA (2019), and was selected as a New Voice in Science from the U.S. National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (2018).

Berhe previously served as the Chair of the US National Committee on Soil Science at the National Academies and chaired the U.S. delegation to the International Union of Soil Sciences' General Assembly at the World Congress of Soil Sciences. Berhe equally has demonstrated leadership in broadening participation in science, as a former Leadership board member for the Earth Science Women's Network and as a founding investigator of the ADVANCEGeo Partnership – a National Science Foundation funded effort to empower (geo)scientists to transform workplace climate through interventions to reduce harassment, discrimination, bullying, and other exclusionary behaviors in research environments.

Berhe was born and raised in Asmara, Eritrea and currently lives in Merced with her husband and two children. She received a B.Sc. in Soil and Water Conservation from the University of Asmara, an M.Sc. in Political Ecology from Michigan State University, and a Ph.D. in Biogeochemistry from the University of California, Berkeley.



**The Honorable Shalanda Baker**

*Director, Office of Economic Impact and Diversity*

*Secretarial Advisor on Equity*

*U.S. Department of Energy*

The Honorable Shalanda H. Baker is the Director of the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity at the U.S. Department of Energy and Secretarial Advisor on Equity. Prior to her Senate confirmation, she served as the Nation's first-ever Deputy Director for Energy Justice. Before joining the Biden-Harris Administration, she was a Professor of Law, Public Policy and Urban Affairs at Northeastern University. She has spent over a decade conducting research on the equity dimensions of the global transition away from fossil fuel energy to cleaner energy resources. She is the author of over a dozen articles, book chapters, and essays on renewable energy law, energy justice, energy policy, and renewable energy development. In 2016, she received a Fulbright-Garcia-Robles research fellowship to study climate change, energy policy, and indigenous rights in Mexico.

She is the Co-Founder and former Co-Director of the Initiative for Energy Justice ([www.iejusa.org](http://www.iejusa.org)), an organization committed to providing technical law and policy support to communities on the frontlines of climate change. Her book, *Revolutionary Power: An Activist's Guide to the Energy Transition* (Island Press 2021), argues that the technical terrain of energy policy should be the next domain to advance civil rights. She received her BS from the United States Air Force Academy and JD from Northeastern University School of Law. She obtained her LLM while serving as a William H. Hastie Fellow at the University of Wisconsin School of Law.



**The Honorable Donald R. Cravins Jr.**

*Under Secretary of Commerce for Minority Business Development*

*U.S. Department of Commerce*

Mr. Donald “Don” R. Cravins, Jr. serves as the first Under Secretary of Commerce for Minority Business Development where he leads the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) in its service of the nation’s 9.7 million minority business enterprises. After more than 52 years in existence, in 2021 President Biden signed the Minority Business Development Act of 2021 expanding and making permanent MBDA as the United States’ newest federal agency. Under Secretary Cravins was unanimously confirmed by the United States Senate on August 4, 2022.

Mr. Cravins holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Louisiana State University and a Juris Doctor from the Southern University Law Center, where he served on the Law Review and the Moot Court Board. In 2004, he was elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives and in 2006 elected to the Louisiana State Senate. While in the Louisiana Legislature, he represented hundreds of businesses —many were minority-owned, and many located in rural communities. Following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Mr. Cravins served as a voice and champion for business owners, assisting with navigating the challenges related to recovery and rebuilding.

In January 2009, Mr. Cravins left the Louisiana Legislature to serve as Staff Director and Chief Counsel for the United States Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, where he played a vital role in the successful passage of the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010. In January 2013, he became the Chief of Staff to United States Senator Mary L. Landrieu of Louisiana. At that time, he was the only African American Chief of Staff in the United States Senate.

Since leaving the United States Senate in 2015, Mr. Cravins has served in key executive positions for some of America’s largest non-profit and for-profit corporations, including the National Urban League where he most recently served as its Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. As one of the Nation’s preeminent Civil Rights Organizations, Mr. Cravins led the National Urban League’s entrepreneurial initiatives and spearheaded its corporate Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion program.

In addition to serving as Under Secretary, Mr. Cravins is a United States Army Major in the District of Columbia Army National Guard Judge Advocate General Corps. His awards and military decorations include two Meritorious Service Medals, three Army Commendation Medals, the Air Force Commendation Medal, and the Army Achievement Medal. He is also a Life Member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., a Life Member of The Rocks, Inc., and a member of the 100 Black Men of Prince George’s County.

His honors include induction into the Southern University Law School Hall of Fame in 2018, recognition as a Distinguished Alumnus of Louisiana State University in 2015, and in 2020 he was named Advocate of the Year by the National Bar Association.

Under Secretary Cravins and his wife, Yvette Puckett Cravins, Esq., have three children and reside in Maryland.

## Keynote Address



### **Simon Bunyan**

*Energy Justice Management and Program Analyst, Minority Business and Workforce Division*

*Office of Economic Impact and Diversity*

*U.S. Department of Energy*

Simon Bunyan (he/him) is an Energy Justice Management and Program Analyst within the Minority Business and Workforce Division of the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity at the Department of Energy. In years prior, Simon worked on what will be New York's first community-led and community-owned solar installation with UPROSE in Sunset Park, Brooklyn; drafted the federal climate action plan at the White House Council on Environmental Quality; implemented clean energy campaigns at the Environmental Defense Fund; and supported clean energy research and development efforts with the Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. Simon brings a strong background of utilizing environmental justice frameworks and values-based relationship-building to ensure that the transition to a 100% clean economy centers frontline solutions to socially, environmentally, and economically benefits marginalized communities. Simon was born in Hyderabad, India and has been fortunate to call Chicago, Illinois, "home." Simon received his Master of Environmental Management from Yale School of the Environment.



### **The Honorable Jahi Wise**

*Senior Advisor to the Administrator and Acting Director, Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund*

*U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

Jahi Wise joins EPA from the White House Climate Policy Office where he served as Special Assistant to the President for Climate Policy and Finance. In this role, Jahi was the principal advisor to National Climate Advisors Gina McCarthy and Ali Zaidi developing and leading the implementation of the Biden-Harris Administration's policies on clean energy project finance, economic development, climate-related financial risk and equitable climate investment. Prior to joining the Administration in January 2021, Jahi held climate policy positions in the Office of the Mayor of New York City and at the Coalition for Green Capital a national nonprofit focused on EPA Environmental Financial Advisory Board January 2023 Meeting establishing and clean energy finance entities. Jahi also practiced law as an energy and infrastructure project finance attorney at Skadden Arps and as general counsel of BlocPower, a social enterprise focused on community scale clean energy deployment. He received his J.D. and MBA from Yale Law School and Yale School of Management and his B.A. from Morehouse College.

## Panel Discussion



**Charles T. Wallace-Thomas IV**

*Energy and Economic Justice Policy Fellow, Minority Business and Workforce Division*

*Office of Economic Impact and Diversity*

*U.S. Department of Energy*

Charles T. Wallace-Thomas IV is an ORISE Energy and Economic Justice Policy Fellow at the U.S. Department of Energy's Minority Business and Workforce Division. Throughout his career and scholarship, Charles has been committed to manifesting a future wherein all people thrive not as an act of resistance, but as the logical consequence of living in communities that dignify, affirm, and enable humanity. Previously, Charles held positions at the Center for Economic Democracy, the Boston Ujima Project, and the Participatory Budgeting Project where he worked to co-create economic democracy and advance visions and practices for a just and sustainable world. In his free time, Charles edits *The Second and Fourth Review*, a publication curating a community of creative reflection confronting the questions of our age through prose, poetry, visual art, and other media. A native of Columbus, Ohio, Charles graduated from Northeastern university with a B.S. in Economics.



**The Honorable Henry McKoy, PhD**

*Director, Office of State and Community Energy Programs*

*U.S. Department of Energy*

Dr. Henry C. McKoy, Jr. is a seasoned professional in business, community and economic development, policy, government, finance, energy, philanthropy, and the academic worlds. Prior to the Department of Energy, he served on the faculty at North Carolina Central University School of Business where he led the entrepreneurship program, with additional appointments at Duke, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Harvard. He is a former banking executive, entrepreneur, and former Assistant Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Commerce. He holds degrees from UNC-Chapel Hill's Kenan-Flagler Business School (B.S.), Duke's Nicholas School of the Environment (M.S.), and UNC-Chapel Hill's Department of City and Regional Planning (PhD).



**The Honorable Daniel Blackman**

*Regional Administrator for the Southeast Region (Region 4)*

*U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

On November 29, 2021, President Biden appointed Daniel Blackman to serve as the Regional Administrator for EPA's Southeast Region (Region 4). In this role Daniel is leading EPA efforts to protect public health and the environment for the region spanning Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and six federally recognized tribes. Daniel has dedicated his career to creating economic opportunities for marginalized communities throughout the South, specifically in building more resilient communities with equitable economic opportunity, greater access to education and a healthy environment for all, not just for a select few. Daniel has spent over a decade advising policymakers at the state capitol advocating on behalf of Georgia ratepayers and small businesses in energy-related matters before Georgia's Public Service Commission. He has served as chairman of the Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club and board member to the ACLU. During the Obama Administration, Daniel worked closely within EPA Region 4 on issues including water infrastructure, clean air, and land/emergency



management policies that impacted the southeast. He leaned heavily on his civil rights background to amplify the Region's Environmental Justice (EJ) Policy and convened stakeholders with federal agencies to address a multitude of community concerns strategically and comprehensively.

His work in addressing groundwater contamination at nuclear plants and its impact on public health and safety has given him the opportunity to testify numerous times before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; and his commitment to working throughout the Southeastern United States to push for legislation that addresses toxic ash left behind from burning coal has given him the opportunity to play a key role in the transitioning from coal to clean energy in the United States. He is the son of immigrants from Barbados and is an alumnus of Clark Atlanta University. Daniel and his wife Jeanelle are the proud parents of four children, and the family resides in Forsyth County, Georgia.



**Nenha Young**

*Director of Policy and Network, Coalition for Green Capital*

Nenha is an experienced community development professional and recently completed her Master of Environmental Management from the Yale School of the Environment, specializing in Energy and the Environment. Nenha believes that the clean energy transition is one of the most critical opportunities to address the climate crisis and wants to ensure that low- and moderate-income communities are prioritized. During graduate school, Nenha supported various efforts to advance decarbonization and the clean energy transition across the United States.

She worked with the Yale Center for Business and Environment to implement an online training on clean energy. As an Environmental Defense Fund Climate Corps Fellow, Nenha worked with the City of Seattle Office of Sustainability and Environment to implement the city-wide Green New Deal. Additionally, Nenha worked with Forsyth Street Advisors to support the development of a state-wide green bank and a national fund to expand clean energy financing for community development financial institutions, and credit unions. Before graduate school, Nenha worked on affordable housing development, philanthropy, and small business lending. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Urban and Regional Studies with a minor in Architecture from Cornell University in 2012.



**Eric Coffie**

*CEO of Govcon Giants and CEO of AlchemyGov*

Eric Coffie is the host of Govcon Giants, the #1 YouTube channel and podcast teaching federal procurement aka government contracting. His students are winning contracts every day around the world and are growing their microbusinesses into small businesses.

He has helped hundreds of companies get registered and understand the world of federal contracting winning contracts with organizations such as Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S.

Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, Defense Logistics Agency, U.S. Department of State, and many more.

Eric's slogan, teaching everyday people how to win extraordinary contracts is the mantra that guides all that he does. For his ongoing challenge, Eric would like to help 200 companies achieve \$5 million in revenue netting for a \$1 Billion economic impact. Videos from his YouTube channel have been translated into both Spanish and Russian with viewers watching from 91 countries around the world. The Top 10 viewer countries of his content include United States, Venezuela, Kuwait, Canada, Dominican Republic, Japan, United Kingdom, Afghanistan, South Africa, and the Netherlands in respective order. He is also a speaker with the U.S. Department of State. A program that sends experts from the United States to consult with foreign audiences of a variety of topics.

## Lunch Presentations



**Nacole Morton**

*Chief, Acquisition and Project Management Division, Office of Economic Impact and Diversity*

*U.S. Department of Energy*

Nacole previously served as the Acting Corporate Services Director, Headquarters Procurement Services, and Procurement Division Branch Chief/Team Lead in support of IN, ED, EHHS, NE, OSBDU, LPO and other offices across the DOE complex. Nacole is a true federal acquisition expert who holds an unlimited Contracting Officer's Warrant.

Her work experiences are quite impressive; they include serving as an Acting Division Director and contracting officer within DOE's Office of Procurement for over 13 years. Within these roles, she has a proven record as a fierce leader and supervisor. Nacole executed efficient and effective federal contracts and financial assistance (grants and cooperative agreements) and supported at least 20 offices out of the 35 program offices across DOE for over a decade. She led solicitations and execution of contract awards for DOE's Office of Intelligence and Counterintelligence (IN), Office of Nuclear Energy, Science, and Technology (NE), Office of Small & Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU), and Office of Environment, Health, Safety, and Security Office of Business Operations (AU).

Prior to supporting DOE, Nacole served local communities as a program manager for Georgetown Technical College's Upward Bound Program and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Columbia, South Carolina. She truly has a passion for supporting underserved individuals and communities. Nacole holds a Master of Business Administration from Webster University and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a minor in Criminal Justice from Benedict College. Nacole is currently pursuing a PhD in Business Administration and Leadership.



**Kerene Tayloe**

*Management and Program Analyst, Office of Economic Impact and Diversity*

*U.S. Department of Energy*

Kerene N. Tayloe, Esq. is a Management and Program Analyst in DOE's Office of Economic Impact and Diversity. Before joining ED, she was Director of Federal Legislative Affairs for WE ACT for Environmental Justice. Kerene also served as the Policy Director for Green For All. She is focused on ensuring that communities of color lead and speak for

themselves as we address the important challenge of climate change. To that end, she believes it is imperative that people of color and women have access to economic opportunities in the clean energy sector. She was an active participant in the drafting of the landmark Environmental Justice for All Act, which was the first major environmental justice bill to pass through a congressional committee. In 2019, she was chosen for the Grist 50, an annual list of emerging leaders from across the U.S. who are working on fresh, real-world solutions to our world's biggest challenges. In 2020, she was selected for the Rachel's Network Catalyst Award celebrating women of color who are building a healthier, safer, and more just world. Kerene has shared her insight and experience as a speaker at various events including Afropunk, Broccoli City Fest, The Clean Energy Leadership Institute and The Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference, just to name a few. She is a sought-after expert on environmental justice and has been quoted in several publications including the New York Times and the Washington Post. Kerene received her Juris Doctorate from Florida A&M College of Law and passed the New York State Bar. She attended Fisk University and the University of South Florida, where she majored in Political Science.